



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

Regional Office, R5
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737 Voice
(707) 562-9240 Text (TDD)

File Code: 1570-1
Appeal No.: 10-05-00-0091-A215
Date: October 14, 2010

Carlette Anderson
2451 Night Star Ct.
Alpine, CA 91901

CERTIFIED-RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Ms. Anderson:

On July 29, 2010, you filed a Notice of Appeal (NOA) pursuant to 36 CFR 215 on the Sunrise Powerlink Project. William Metz, Forest Supervisor on the Cleveland National Forest signed the Record of Decision (ROD) approving the Sunrise Powerlink Project Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on July 9, 2010.

I have reviewed the entire appeal record, including your written Notice of Appeal (NOA), the ROD, FEIS, and supporting documentation. I have weighed the recommendation from the Appeal Reviewing Officer and incorporated it into this decision. A copy of the Appeal Reviewing Officer's recommendation is enclosed. The Appeal Reviewing Officer responded to your issues in Issues 1, 13, and 14. This letter constitutes my decision on the appeal and on the specific relief requested.

FOREST ACTION BEING APPEALED

San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a new 230/500 kV transmission line project called the Sunrise Powerlink. Applications were filed in 2005 with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and notices of the applications were published in August 2006. SDG&E's project purposes are to promote renewable energy, improve system reliability, and reduce transmission congestion and energy supply costs.

The CPUC approved the project on December 18, 2008, selecting a combination of alternative routes called the Final Environmentally Superior Southern Route (Selected Alternative) through the Cleveland National Forest (Cleveland NF). The BLM approved the project on January 20, 2009, selecting the same alternative. SDG&E applied to the Forest Service for a Special Use Permit for the Selected Alternative in January 2009. The Selected Alternative crosses approximately 49 miles of BLM land and approximately 19 miles of National Forest System land. The decision authorizes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Sunrise Powerlink on National Forest System lands. Authorization of this project will be implemented by issuing a 50 year special use permit for the construction, operation, and maintenance of project facilities. A temporary special use permit will be issued for locations needed to support



project construction that are outside of the long-term special use permit area. Required mitigation measures will be incorporated into the special use permit conditions.

The decision includes non-significant, project specific Land Management Plan amendments to provide an exception to plan standards associated with visual resources and riparian areas. The decision also includes a non-significant, project specific amendment to authorize construction in an area of "Back Country Non-Motorized" land use zone.

APPEAL REVIEWING OFFICER'S FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATION

Documentation demonstrated compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies in light of the appeal issues raised by appellants.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer (ARO), Eli Ilano, Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit found that the project is an appropriate and reasonable response to direction in the Cleveland National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The purpose and need for the project were clear. The Forest Supervisor's decision logic and rationale were clear and well documented. The Forest Supervisor was responsive to public concerns.

ARO Eli Ilano recommended affirming the Forest Supervisor's decision.

DECISION

I agree with the ARO's analysis as presented in the recommendation letter. The issues were similar to the comments made during the comment period. All appeal issues raised have been considered. I affirm the Forest Supervisor's July 9, 2010 decision on the Sunrise Powerlink Project. I deny all requested relief.

The project may be implemented on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of this letter (36 CFR 215.9(b)). My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ Randy Moore
RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester

Enclosure